

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
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R 141618Z JAN 77
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9821
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LISBON 0397

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PO
SUBJECT: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: SA CARNEIRO'S SPANISH
INTERVIEW PROVOKES FUROR

REF: LISBON 0378 (DTG 141115Z JAN 77)

SUMMARY: THE GOVERNMENT JAN 13 PROTESTED TO THE SPANISH
EMBASSY AND THE MEDIA AGAINST SA CARNEIRO'S CRITICAL
COMMENTS IN A MADRID NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW. THE PSD
POLITICAL COMMITTEE RESPONDED BY DEFENDING SA CARNEIRO
AGAINST PERSONAL ATTACKS. RATHER THAN AIDING SA
CARNEIRO'S ENEMIES WITHIN THE PSD, RECENT ATTACKS ON
THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LEADER APPEAR TO HAVE ALLIED
THE PARTY AROUND HIM. THE CONTROVERSY WILL marginally AFFECT
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RELATIONS WITH SPAIN AND IMPEDE ANY ATTEMPT TO REPAIR BAD
PS-PSD RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. GOVERNMENT PROTESTS SA CARNEIRO CRITICISMS: THE
GOVERNMENT REACTED STRONGLY JAN 13 TO SA CARNEIRO'S
MADRID INTERVIEW (REFTEL). FONMIN SECRETARY GENERAL
AND SECSTATE TO THE PRIME MINISTER VICTOR CUNHA

REGO CALLED IN THE SPANISH CHARGE "TO EXPRESS THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEW OF SA CARNEIRO'S AFFIRMATIONS." FOLLOWING THE MEETING, CUNHA REGO TOLD THE PRESS THAT SA CARNEIRO'S REMARKS WERE UNFORTUNATE AND UNHELPFUL TO PORTUGUESE INTERESTS. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SPOKESMAN MANUEL ALEGRE CALLED SA CARNEIRO'S REMARKS "IMPROPER AND CALUMNIOUS WITH GRAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE PORTUGUESE DEMOCRACY AND THE INTERNATIONAL IMAGE OF PORTUGAL." ALEGRE SAID SA CARNEIRO GIVES THE APPEARANCE OF HAVING GONE TO SPAIN TO SEEK SPANISH GOVERNMENT SUPPORT TO TOPPLE THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT.

2. PSD DEFENDS SA CARNEIRO: IN A JAN 13 MADRID PRESS CONFERENCE, SA CARNEIRO REAFFIRMED HIS EARLIER COMMENTS AND KNOCKED HIS LISBON CRITICS. SA CARNEIRO SAID DEMOCRACY PERMITS CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT OR ANOTHER PARTY. THE PSD POLITICAL COMMITTEE ISSUED A STATEMENT JAN 13 BACKING UP ITS LEADER. THE STATEMENT MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:
-- AN ORCHESTRATED CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE PSD HAS GONE SO FAR AS TO VIOLATE THE PERSONAL DIGNITY OF INDIVIDUALS. (A REFERENCE TO THE "OPCAO" ACCOUNT OF SA CARNEIRO'S MARITAL PROBLEMS.)
-- THE GOVERNMENT AND SOCIALIST NEWSPAPERS HAVE JOINED IN ATTACKING SA CARNEIRO'S MADRID REMARKS IN A DEMONSTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S "GRASPING AND TOTALITARIAN CONTROL OF THE MEDIA."
-- THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST SA CARNEIRO IS A CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PSD. "WE WILL NOT BE INTIMIDATED BY SUCH A CAMPAIGN."

3. IT'S STILL THE REAL THING: THE EFFORT TO BRING COCA-COLA TO PORTUGAL HAS SPARKED OPPOSITION FROM BOTH LEFT AND RIGHT. NATIONAL SOFT DRINK MANUFACTURERS, ELEMENTS OF THE FAR RIGHT, AND THE COMMUNISTS JOINED THE OPPOSITION. RIGHTWING WEEKLY "A RUA," IN A FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE JAN 13, HIGHLIGHTED CRITICISMS ALREADY RAISED BY THE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION. "A RUA" REPEATED ASSERTIONS THAT THE USG MAY HAVE PRESSURED THE GOP INTO ACCEPTING COKE. COMMUNIST MOUTHPIECE "O DIARIO," IN A TWO-PAGE CENTER SPREAD, REITERATED THE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LISBON 0397

ASSOCIATION ARGUMENTS AGAINST COKE AND THREW IN
SEVERAL OF ITS OWN. COKE, IT SAID, WAS THE
VANGUARD OF IMPERIALIST PENETRATION BY THE MULTI-
NATIONALS; BESIDES BEING HABIT-FORMING.

4. A NIGHT OUT FOR VASCO: FORMER LEFTIST PRIME
MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES HAD A RARE NIGHT ON THE
TOWN JAN 12. HE RECEIVED A STANDING OVATION WHEN
HE ATTNEDED THE PERFORMANCE OF A POLITICAL SATIRE
AT A THEATER ACROSS THE RIVER IN THE PCP
BASTION OF ALMADA. VASCO REMAINED AFTER THE
PERFORMANCE TO SHAKE HANDS WITH THE CAST AND
SIGN AUTOGRAPHS. THE APPEARANCE OF HUNDREDS
OF VASCO PHOTOS FOR THE "IMPROMPTU" AUTOGRAPH
SESSION INDICATES CONSIDERABLE PAINS HAD BEEN
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TAKEN BY HIS FRIENDS TO ENSURE VASCO'S NIGHT
OUT WOULD BE A MEDIA SUCCESS.

5. COMMENT: MARIO SOARES HAS GONE TO CONSIDERABLE LENGTHS TO
IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH SPAIN, EVEN STAYING AWAY
FROM THE PSOE CONGRESS. THE SA CARNEIRO CONTROVERSY

WILL NOT HELP SPANISH-PORTUGUESE RELATIONS.

6. THE GOVERNMENT ATTACK ON SA CARNEIRO AND THE
"OPCAO" SMEAR, RATHER THAN AIDING SA CARNEIRO'S
OPPONENTS WITHIN THE PSD, HAVE RALLIED
THE PARTY AROUND ITS LEADER AND FURTHER EMBITTERED
PS-PSD RELATIONS.
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